(b) The project envisages construction of a two lane bridge through the Gulf of Cambay and supply of water through a pipeline to be laid on the ground through the box girders of the bridge for crossing the Gulf of Cambay. The cost of construction of bridge was estimated to be Rs. 127 crores for composite type and Rs. 186 crores for R.C.C. type, by the Government of Gujarat.

(c) As regards quantum of water, the project envisages two alternatives - (i) 50 million gallons per day and (ii) 100 million gallons per day.

(d) and (e). Yes, there is a provision of about 25 million gallons per day of water for industrial use.

(f) The proposal is under examination in the Planning Commission.

US Approach for a Defence Pact with Pakistan

4643. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of any new approach by the United States for a defence pact with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. Though Defence Cooperation arrangements exist between these two countries.

(b) Does not arise. Govt. of India, however, keeps interaction between U.S. & Pakistan in the sphere of Defence under constant observation.

24th Dairy Industry Conference

4644. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 24th Dairy Industry Conference was organised by the Indian Dairy Association on September 1, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of delegates who attended the Conference;

(c) the objectives of the Conference;

(d) the suggestions made at the Conference; and

(e) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The objective of the Conference was to discuss and deliberate on the theme "Quality and Viability for Sustaining Growth". about 770 delegates attended the Conference.

(d) The important suggestions made at the Conference are:-

i) The dairy Industry may be brought with-in the purview of Industrial Licensing.

ii) Privatize the Government dairies.

iii) To amend the Cooperative Societies Act.

iv) To set up Cooperative Companies for District

Milk Unions and Dairy Federations.

v) The Dairy Federations and District Milk Unions to have employees answerable to the elected boards instead of Government deputationists.

(e) The Government has taken note of the suggestions.

Regionalisation of Central Water Commission

4645. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to effect regionalisation in the functioning and formations of the Central Water Commission by setting up some regional offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) the proposed powers and functions of the regional offices; and

(e) the extent to which this regionalisation is likely to resolve inter-State water disputes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (c). It has been decided to effect regionalisation in the functioning and formations of Central Water Commission by setting up six regional offices each at New Delhi, Patna, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Shillong and Vadodara. Further regionalisation is linked up with cadre review of Central Water Engineering (Group-A) Service which is under processing.

(b) and (d). The decentralisation envisages:

i) effective coordination between project authorities and Central Water Commission for speedy solution to the problems of project authorities;

ii) effective and speedy monitoring and appraisal of medium irrigation projects under construction;

iii) better coordination in data collection from field units and State Government agencies; and

iv) better local coordination and liaison with other offices in the field of water resources development and irrigation management etc.

The Regional Offices are part and parcel of Central Water Commission and they will be functioning within the existing frame work.

(e) Inter-State Water disputes are not within the purview of the Regional Offices.

Use of Explosive Materials in Quarries and Mines in Orissa

4646. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether explosive materials without proper licence are being used in some quarries and mines in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?